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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Control: 8203
Rec'd: November 16, 1955
8:13 p.m.

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FROM: Tripoli

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 210, November 15, 8 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDS/MR
REVIEWED BY GM Raz DATE 7 43
PORTIONS EXCISED AS INDICATED

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 210 REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 30, CAIRO 46, LONDON PRIORITY 36, BENGHAZI UNNUMBERED.

PARIS FOR KNIGHT AND WALLNER

PARIS PASS AMBASSADOR TAPPIN

Subsequent my telegram 209 Ambassador Graham received his instructions and at 6 p.m. we called together on Prime Minister Ben Halim.

Graham said [redacted]

Prime Minister studied list carefully and then smiling said "this gives me ammunition I need; I am very grateful; please thank both your governments for getting me out of difficult position".

I said I had one point to make. As Prime Minister knew from his own conversations in Washington last year provision of military equipment by US to friendly country was extremely complicated business involving many factors and requiring approval by various agencies of government including in some cases determination by President. Fact that we had found it possible participate with British in this instance established principle of extreme importance to Libya provided future Libyan arms needs were uncomplicated by fourth parties. I made no reference to item two DEPTEL 168. Prime Minister obviously got the point.

Ben Halim

Copy No(s) ___
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Ben Halim then raised question of publicity and asked whether we had any objection to details of point offer being made known.

[redacted] B-1 EB, ED

As we left Ben Halim repeated several times "thank you gentlemen for your good news".

Based on this evening's conversation Graham and I feel Ben Halim may be satisfied with our offer and that Egyptian offer will be declined.

For maximum impact would hope that some items at least, preferably US arms could arrive Tripoli in time for December 24 Independence Day ceremonies.

Realizing [redacted] time normally required obtain, prepare and load military equipment for shipment suggest utmost effort be made obtain [redacted] from nearest available stocks, i.e. US forces Germany or Italy. Since we are only providing eight personnel [redacted] could be "borrowed" from nearby units [redacted] making [redacted] their delivery here mid-December.

MES

[redacted]

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